



Gold Star Mother's Day September 28, 2008

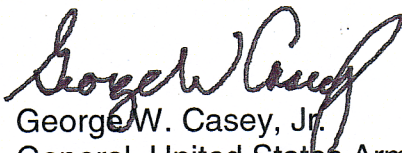
Throughout our Nation's history, the courageous men and women of our Armed Forces have given their lives so that Americans and others can live in freedom. We salute President Bush's proclamation that recognizes Sunday as Gold Star Mother's Day – a day to honor the mothers of these heroic men and women.

Gold Star Mothers are extraordinary women who – in the face of utmost loss – remain steadfast in their dedication to the memory of their children and their service to America's noble cause. Having so sacrificed, their example is an inspiration to all.

We have given priority of services to members of our survivor Families equal to that of the Wounded Warrior. We have solicited their feedback to improve training, support and delivery of services. During the Association of the United States Army annual meeting, we will host a select group of surviving Family members along with veterans' and military service organizations and non-profit agencies to help us develop ways to improve peer-to-peer support and strengthen our outreach efforts.

The Army will launch a comprehensive program in October to better fulfill our moral obligation to surviving Family members. We are committed to increased resourcing for our Casualty Assistance Centers and to ensuring those who work with survivors are well trained. Benefits specialists, financial counselors, and support coordinators will serve our Family members for as long as they are needed.

As unselfish extensions of their fallen sons and daughters, Gold Star Mothers serve our communities and Families as models of grace and strength. The Army, along with our Nation, honors them, and renews our commitment to uphold the sacred legacy of their fallen children.



George W. Casey, Jr.
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff



Pete Geren
Secretary of the Army